

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/829,623

Examiner

Thomas K. Pham

Applicant(s)

KOSEKI, AKIRA

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 7/10/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19,21 and 23-28.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-19, 21 and 23-28 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

While Nagashima (U.S. Patent No. 6,275,988) discloses an image transmission system which processes hierarchically encoded image information, comprising traffic checking means for checking a traffic of a transmission line for transmitting the hierarchically encoded image information, resolution selection means for selecting a resolution of an image to be transmitted in correspondence with the checking result, accounting means for performing accounting processing in correspondence with the selected resolution of image information, information volume measuring means for measuring a volume of the image information, charge storage means for storing a charge of the image information calculated by the accounting means, and payment means for paying the charge of the image information at predetermined time intervals. Nagashima does not teach intermediate documents are hierarchically structured according to a total number of pages contained in each of the intermediate documents; assigning each of the number of intermediate documents an information level based on the number of pages contained therein; and other limitations related to these features in combination with the remaining elements and features of the claimed invention.

And Pekowski (U.S. Patent No. 6,557,007) discloses a convention processing system includes a database operable to store show information identifying at least one show in which a plurality of exhibitors will exhibit their wares, service information identifying a plurality of services available to the exhibitors at the show, supplier information identifying at least one supplier for each service and a plurality of suppliers for at least one service, and at least one item

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for each service, the item identifying a particular type of the service, a price for the item and a supplier for the item. The database structure may be organized in a hierarchy with shows at the top, followed by divisions in each show, followed by services and accounts in each division, wherein services may further subdivided into one or more items for each suppliers. Pekowski does not teach intermediate documents are hierarchically structured according to a total number of pages contained in each of the intermediate documents; assigning each of the number of intermediate documents an information level based on the number of pages contained therein; and other limitations related to these features in combination with the remaining elements and features of the claimed invention.

The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in conjunction with all the other claimed limitations, an information providing method and system having all the claimed features of applicant's instant invention, specifically including: intermediate documents are hierarchically structured according to a total number of pages contained in each of the intermediate documents; assigning each of the number of intermediate documents an information level based on the number of pages contained therein, etc., as set forth in the claims.

Also, there is no motivation to combine the Nagashima reference with the Pekowski reference to meet these limitations. It is for these reasons that applicant's invention defines over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner *Thomas Pham*; whose telephone number is (571) 272-3689, Monday to Thursday from 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM EST or contact Supervisor *Mr. Anthony Knight* at (571) 272-3687.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas Pham

Patent Examiner

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Thuy Pham', written in black ink.

September 19, 2006